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Identical letters dated 5 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 4 November 2000 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 24 to 31 October 2000 they carried out 428 sorties, 262 of them from Saudi Arabia, 84 from Kuwait and 82 from Turkey.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 5 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 428 sorties in the period from 24 to 31 October 2000, 262 of them from Saudi Arabia, 84 from Kuwait and 82 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 82 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1115 hours on 24 October 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16 and Tornado aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 22 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Mosul, Baibo, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1250 hours on 25 October 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Ayn Zalah, Aqrah and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1415 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1305 hours on 30 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 22 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Irbil, Tall Afar, Aqrah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1515 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1135 hours on 31 October 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1435 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 346 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0800 hours on 24 October 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 42 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace.

They overflew the Basrah, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Taqtaqanah, Diwaniyah, Qal`at Sukkar, Amarah, Qal`at Salih, Ukhaydir, Ar`ar, Abyad, Tabaqat, Rifa`i and Rutbah areas and the kilometre-160 area 40 kilometres south of the 33rd parallel. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1010 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0830 hours on 25 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 54 missions, 36 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 18 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Basrah, Amarah, Ar`ar, Walid and Jalibah areas and an area two kilometres south of Rutbah. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1625 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0930 hours on 26 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 78 missions, 70 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Amarah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Ukhaydir, Taqtaqanah, Tab`at, Walid, Salman and Rifa`i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1245 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0950 hours on 27 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Busayyah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Shatrah, Afak, Samawah, Hashimiyah, Diwaniyah, Shinafiyah, Lasaf, Salman, Ukhaydir, Najaf, Nukhayb and Amghar areas and an area 10 kilometres south-west of Hayy. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1910 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0955 hours on 28 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 46 missions, 34 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Artawi, Salman, Rifa`i, Samawah, Nukhayb, Rahhaliyah, Shinafiyah, Najaf, Hayy and Nasiriyah areas and an area 45 kilometres south-east of Rutbah. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1315 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0855 hours on 29 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 50 missions, 32 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 18 from Kuwaiti territory with the

support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Diwaniyah, Salman, Nukhayb, Shinafiyah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1645 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1225 hours on 30 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 missions from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Rahhaliyah, Razzazah, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Nukhayb, Qurnah, Jalibah, Lasaf and Ashbajah areas and an area 30 kilometres south of Rutbah. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2015 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials seeking to defend the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they must bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against civilian targets and Iraqi civilian installations, urges you to perform your assigned duties with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs